

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 were pending when last examined. In the May 2005 Office Action, a Restriction to one of the following inventions was required:

- I. Claims 1-14, drawn to an automated storage system
- II. Claims 15-19, drawn to a rack storage facility
- III. Claims 20-30, drawn to a method of storing and picking articles

Applicant hereby requests cancellation of Claims 15-19 but reserves the right to pursue the canceled claims in a divisional application.

As a reason for requesting an election, the Office Action stated that "the method as claimed can be practiced by a variety of materially different apparatuses" Independent claim 20 has been amended to indicate that the recited method is used with the storage system of Claim 1. With the amendment, Claims 1-14 and Claims 20-30 are sufficiently related and no election between the two groups is necessary.

However, for the purpose of submitting a complete response, Applicant hereby elects Claims 1-14 for further examination. Claims 7 and 9 have been amended to correct a typographical error and a minor form error, respectively.

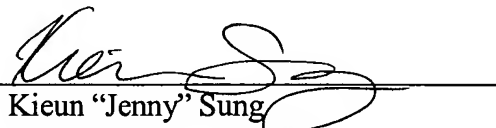
Claims 1-14 and 20-30 are in condition for allowance. Please telephone the undersigned attorney at (650) 833-2121 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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